

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. 1. A fluid filled ampoule, comprising:
2 an ampoule body having a top end, a bottom end, and a sealed interior
3 containing a liquid;
4 a top tab that is coupled to the top end, wherein the top tab is
5 removable to create a drain vent in the top end;
6 a bottom tab that is coupled to the bottom end, wherein the bottom tab
7 is removable to create a drain opening in the bottom end; and
8 a movable shroud that is coupled to the top end and which is disposed
9 about the top tab.

1 2. An ampoule as in claim 1, wherein the top tab and the bottom tab are
2 coupled to the ampoule body such that they are removable by applying a twisting action.

1 3. An ampoule as in claim 1, wherein the shroud is bendable to provide
2 access to the top tab.

1 4. An ampoule as in claim 1, further comprising a pair of longitudinal
2 rails on the ampoule body that are adapted to guide the ampoule into a receiver of an
3 aerosolization device.

1 5. An ampoule as in claim 4, wherein the rails have different sizes so that
2 the ampoule may be inserted into the receiver in only one orientation.

1 6. An ampoule as in claim 1, wherein the bottom end is tapered to
2 provide a surface area at the bottom end that is adapted to provide a seal with a receiver of an
3 aerosolization device.

1 7. An ampoule as in claim 1, wherein the ampoule body has a wall
2 thickness of at least about 0.03 inch.

1 8. An ampoule as in claim 1, further comprising at least one keying
2 element on the ampoule body that is adapted to permit operation of an aerosolization device
3 when the keying element is accepted by the aerosolization device.

1 9. An ampoule as in claim 8, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 protrusion extending from the ampoule body.

1 10. An ampoule as in claim 8, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 readable pattern on the ampoule body.

1 11. A fluid filled ampoule, comprising:
2 an ampoule body having a top end, a bottom end, and a sealed interior
3 containing a liquid, wherein the top end and the bottom end are each adapted to be opened to
4 provide respective vent and drain openings; and
5 at least one orientation element to facilitate proper insertion of the
6 ampoule into an aerosolization device.

1 12. An ampoule as in claim 11, further comprising a pair of orientation
2 elements that comprise a pair of longitudinal rails on the ampoule body that are adapted to
3 guide the ampoule into the aerosolization device in a particular orientation.

1 13. An ampoule as in claim 12, wherein the rails have different sizes so
2 that the ampoule may be inserted into the aerosolization device in only one orientation.

1 14. An ampoule as in claim 11, further comprising a top tab that is coupled
2 to the top end, wherein the top tab is removable to create the drain vent in the top end, and a
3 bottom tab that is coupled to the bottom end, wherein the bottom tab is removable to create
4 the drain opening in the bottom end.

1 15. An ampoule as in claim 14, wherein the top tab and the bottom tab are
2 coupled to the ampoule body such that they are removable by applying a twisting action.

1 16. An ampoule as in claim 14, further comprising a shroud disposed about
2 the top tab, wherein the shroud is bendable to provide access to the top tab.

1 17. An ampoule as in claim 11, wherein the bottom end is tapered to
2 provide a surface area at the bottom end that is adapted to provide a seal with an
3 aerosolization device.

1 18. An ampoule as in claim 11, further comprising at least one keying
2 element on the ampoule body that is adapted to permit operation of the aerosolization device
3 when the keying element is accepted by the aerosolization device.

1 19. An ampoule as in claim 18, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 protrusion extending from the ampoule body.

1 20. An ampoule as in claim 18, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 readable pattern on the ampoule body.

1 21. A fluid filled ampoule, comprising:
2 an ampoule body having a top end, a bottom end, and a sealed interior
3 containing a liquid, wherein the top end and the bottom end are each adapted to be opened to
4 provide respective vent and drain openings; and
5 at least one keying element on the ampoule body that is adapted to
6 permit operation of an aerosolization device when the keying element is accepted by the
7 aerosolization device.

1 22. An ampoule as in claim 21, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 protrusion extending from the ampoule body.

1 23. An ampoule as in claim 21, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 readable pattern on the ampoule body.

1 24. An ampoule as in claim 21, further comprising at least one orientation
2 element to facilitate proper insertion of the ampoule into the aerosolization device.

1 25. An ampoule as in claim 24, further comprising a pair of orientation
2 elements that comprise a pair of longitudinal rails on the ampoule body that are adapted to
3 guide the ampoule into the aerosolization device in a particular orientation.

1 26. An ampoule as in claim 25, wherein the rails have different sizes so
2 that the ampoule may be inserted into the aerosolization device in only one orientation.

1 27. An ampoule as in claim 21, wherein the bottom end is tapered to
2 provide a surface area at the bottom end that is adapted to provide a seal with the
3 aerosolization device.

1 28. An ampoule as in claim 21, further comprising a top tab that is coupled
2 to the top end, wherein the top tab is removable to create the drain vent in the top end, and a

3 bottom tab that is coupled to the bottom end, wherein the bottom tab is removable to create
4 the drain opening in the bottom end.

1 29. An ampoule as in claim 28, wherein the top tab and the bottom tab are
2 coupled to the ampoule body such that they are removable by applying a twisting action.

1 30. An ampoule as in claim 28, further comprising a shroud disposed about
2 the top tab, wherein the shroud is bendable to provide access to the top tab.

Sub
2 comprising:

3 31. A method for supplying liquid to an aerosolization device, the method
4 providing an ampoule comprising an ampoule body having a top end, a
5 bottom end, and a sealed interior containing a liquid, a top tab that is coupled to the top end, a
6 bottom tab that is coupled to the bottom end, and a shroud disposed about the top tab;
7 moving the shroud away from the tab;
8 removing the top tab to create a drain vent;
9 removing the bottom tab to create a drain opening;
10 wherein upon creation of the drain vent and the drain opening, the
11 liquid in the interior flows out of the drain opening and is available for aerosolization by an
12 aerosolization device.

1 32. A method as in claim 31, further comprising inserting the ampoule into
2 the aerosolization device after removing the bottom tab and prior to removing the top tab.

1 33. A method as in claim 31, further comprising bending the shroud to
2 move the shroud away from the top tab.

1 34. A method as in claim 31, further comprising twisting the top tab and
2 the bottom tab to remove them from the ampoule body.

1 35. A method as in claim 31, wherein the ampoule further includes a pair
2 of longitudinal rails on the ampoule body, and further comprising inserting the ampoule into
3 the aerosolization device such that the rails are received into corresponding slots in the
4 aerosolization device.

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1 ~~36~~¹⁷ A method as in claim ~~35~~¹⁶, wherein the rails and the slots have different
2 sizes, and further comprising inserting the ampoule such that the rails and received into the
3 appropriately sized slots.

1 ~~37~~³ A method as in claim ~~32~~², wherein the bottom end is tapered, and
2 further comprising providing a seal with the bottom end and the aerosolization device.

1 ~~38~~⁸ A method as in claim ~~31~~¹¹, wherein the ampoule further includes at least
2 one keying element on the ampoule body, and further comprising inserting the aerosolization
3 device and permitting operation of the aerosolization device only when the keying element is
4 accepted by the aerosolization device.

1 ~~39~~⁹ A method as in claim ~~38~~⁸, wherein the keying element comprises a
2 protrusion on the ampoule body, and further comprising inserting the ampoule into the
3 aerosolization device such that the protrusion is received into a keyed slot in the
4 aerosolization device.

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